

Andrews, Greg R. et al.

Appl. No. 09/661,702

Filed: September 14, 2000

Atty. Docket No. 61311008

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Examiner has allowed claims 1-7

Section 103(a) Rejections

Examiner has rejected claims 8-12 over Coffey et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,386,968). Applicant has cancelled claims 8-12.

Examiner has rejected claims 13-15 over Coffey et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,386,968) further in view of Ma et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,954,279). Applicant respectfully amends and traverses.

Applicant has amended claim 13 to further limit the use of polyvinyl alcohol to the use of fully hydrolyzed polyvinyl alcohol as is supported by the specification at page 13, line 15. In view of the amendment to claim 13, Applicant respectfully asserts that Examiner's rejection of claims 14-15, dependent from claim 13, is now moot.

Examiner has objected to claim 16 as dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Applicant has amended claim 16 to include all limitations of the base claim and all intervening dependent claims, and Applicant believes that claim 16 is now allowable.

Applicant respectfully requests that the amendments herein be entered and the remarks considered.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully believes the present application is now in condition for allowance and requests reconsideration thereof. If Examiner disagrees with Applicant's position and would like to receive further clarifying explanations of the significance of Applicant's invention, it is respectfully requested that Applicant be granted a telephone interview with Examiner.

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Otherwise, should the Examiner have any questions regarding this submission, he is invited to contact the undersigned counsel at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted, this 14th day of January 2004



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